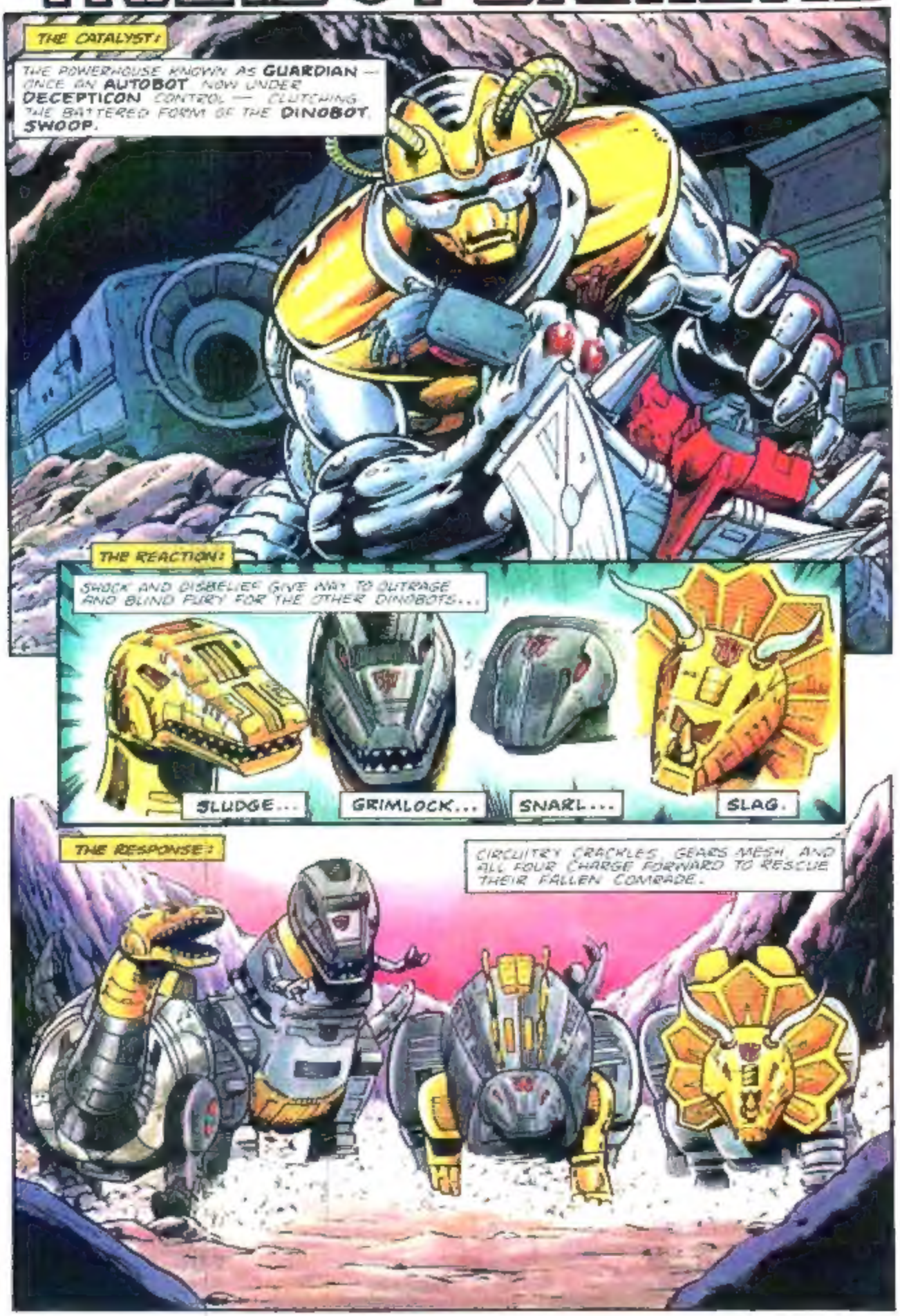
MARVEL
19th Oct 85
No31 30p
THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC AUTOBOT
THE DINOBOTS
NO MORE MISTER NICE GUYS...!

THE TRANSFORMERS

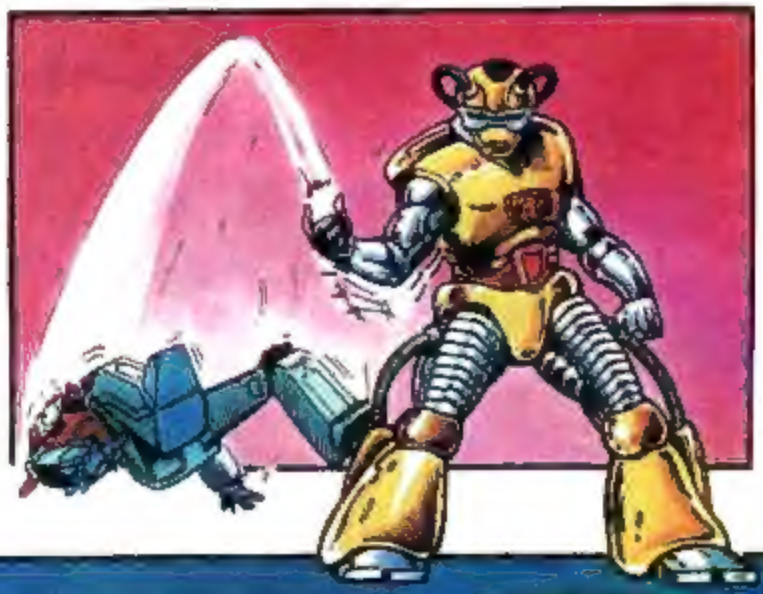

THE CATALYST:
THE POWERHOUSE KNOWN AS GUARDIAN — ONCE AN AUTOBOT NOW UNDER DECEPTICON CONTROL — CLUTCHING THE BATTERED FORM OF THE DINOBOT, SWOOP.
THE REACTION:
SHOCK AND DISBELIEF GIVE WAY TO OUTRAGE AND BLIND FURY FOR THE OTHER DINOBOTS...
SLUDGE...
GRIMLOCK...
SNARL...
SLAG.
THE RESPONSE:
CIRCUITRY CRACKLES, GEARS MESH, AND ALL FOUR CHARGE FORWARD TO RESCUE THEIR FALLEN COMRADE.

THE WARNING!

STOP! YOU'LL NEVER BEAT HIM WITH BRUTE FORCE... HE'S TOO POWERFUL!

THE OPPOSITION!

FIVE TONS OF HEAVILY ARMOURED POWER. ITS SOLE PURPOSE IN LIFE NOW... TO KILL AUTOBOTS.



THE WRATH OF GUARDIAN!!

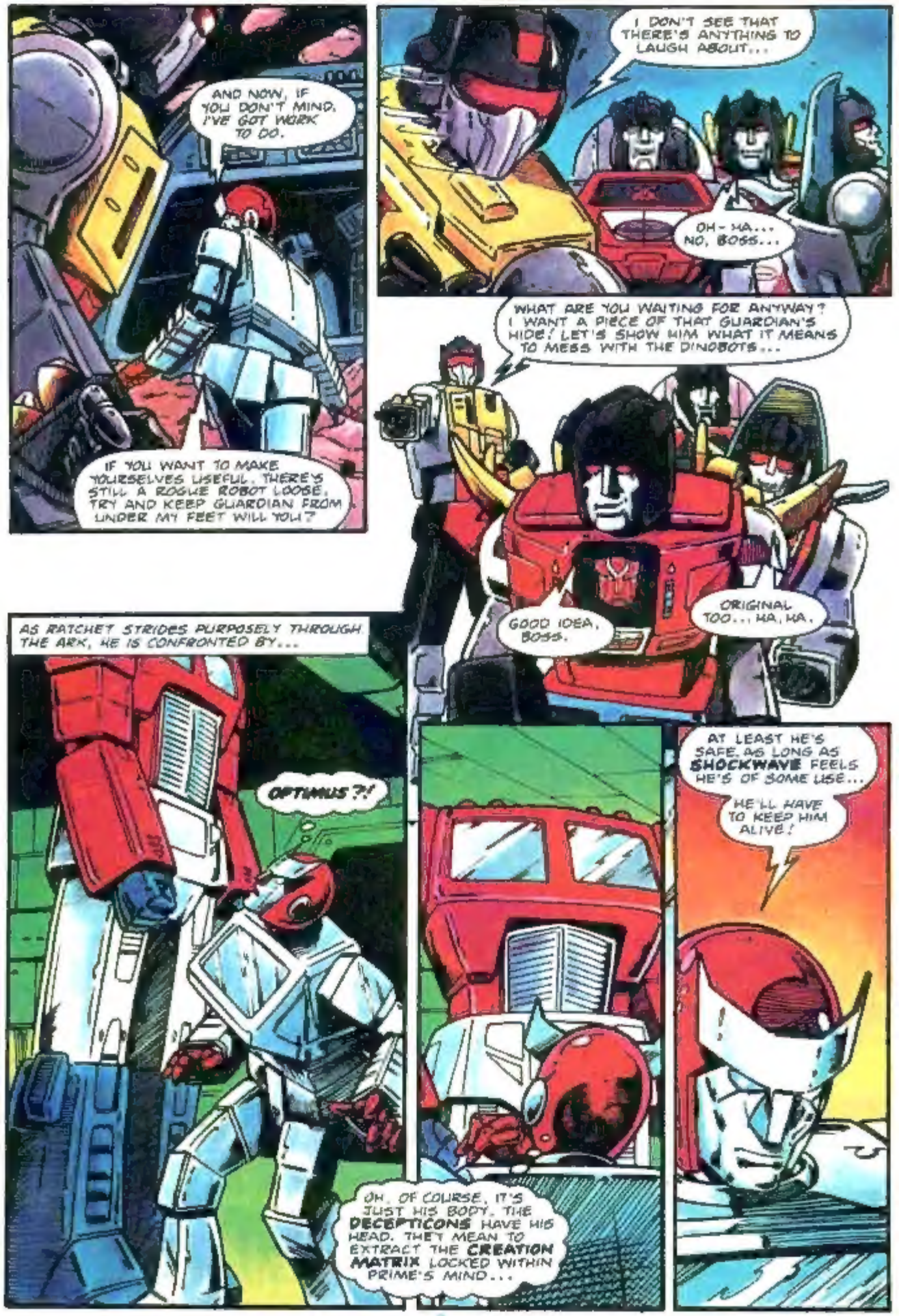
TAKE HIM DIN-UNNGH!

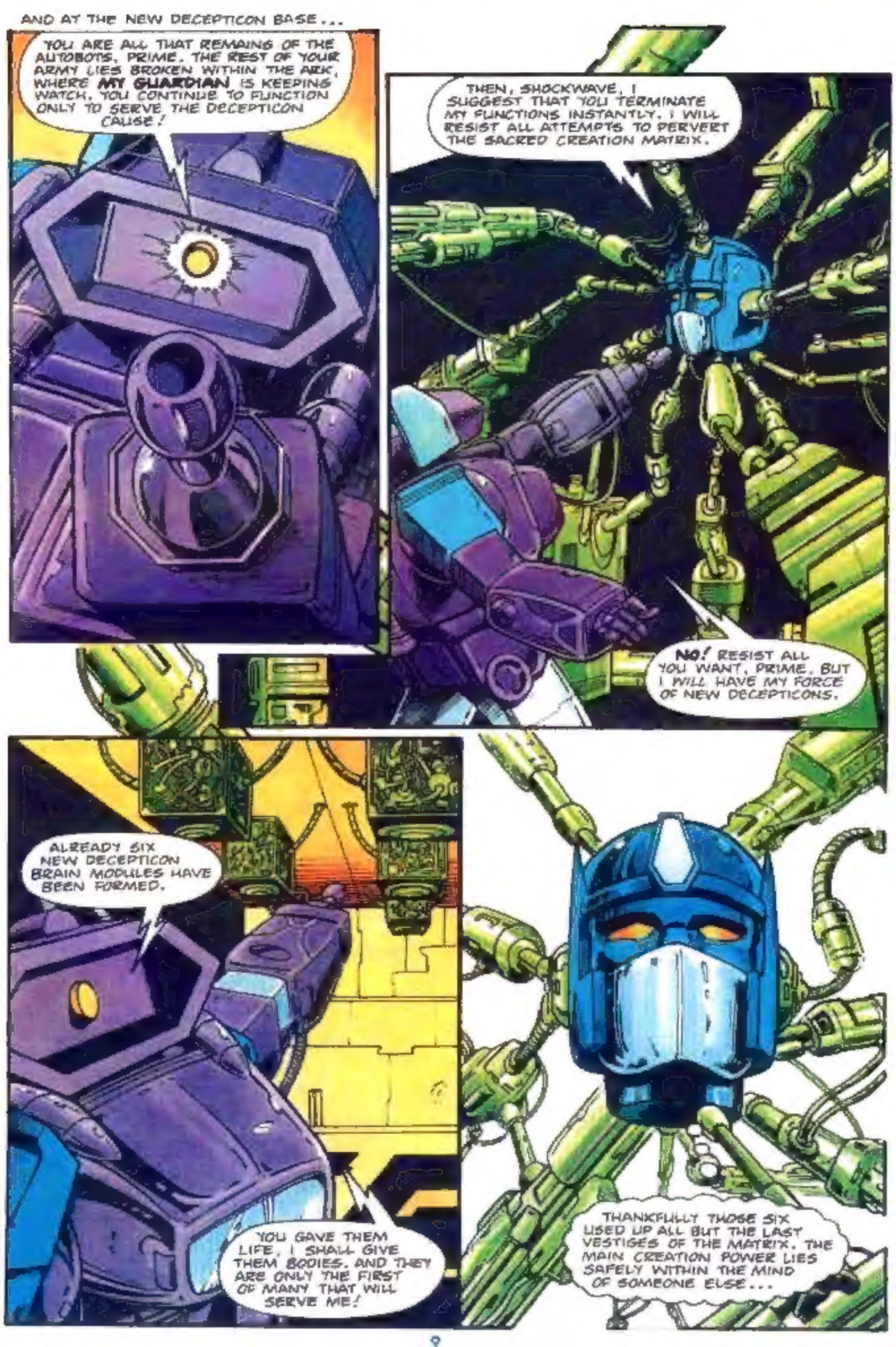
SCRIPT: S. FURMAN
ART: B. KITSON
COLOURS: G. HART
LETTERS: A. HALFACREE
EDITS: I. RIMMER

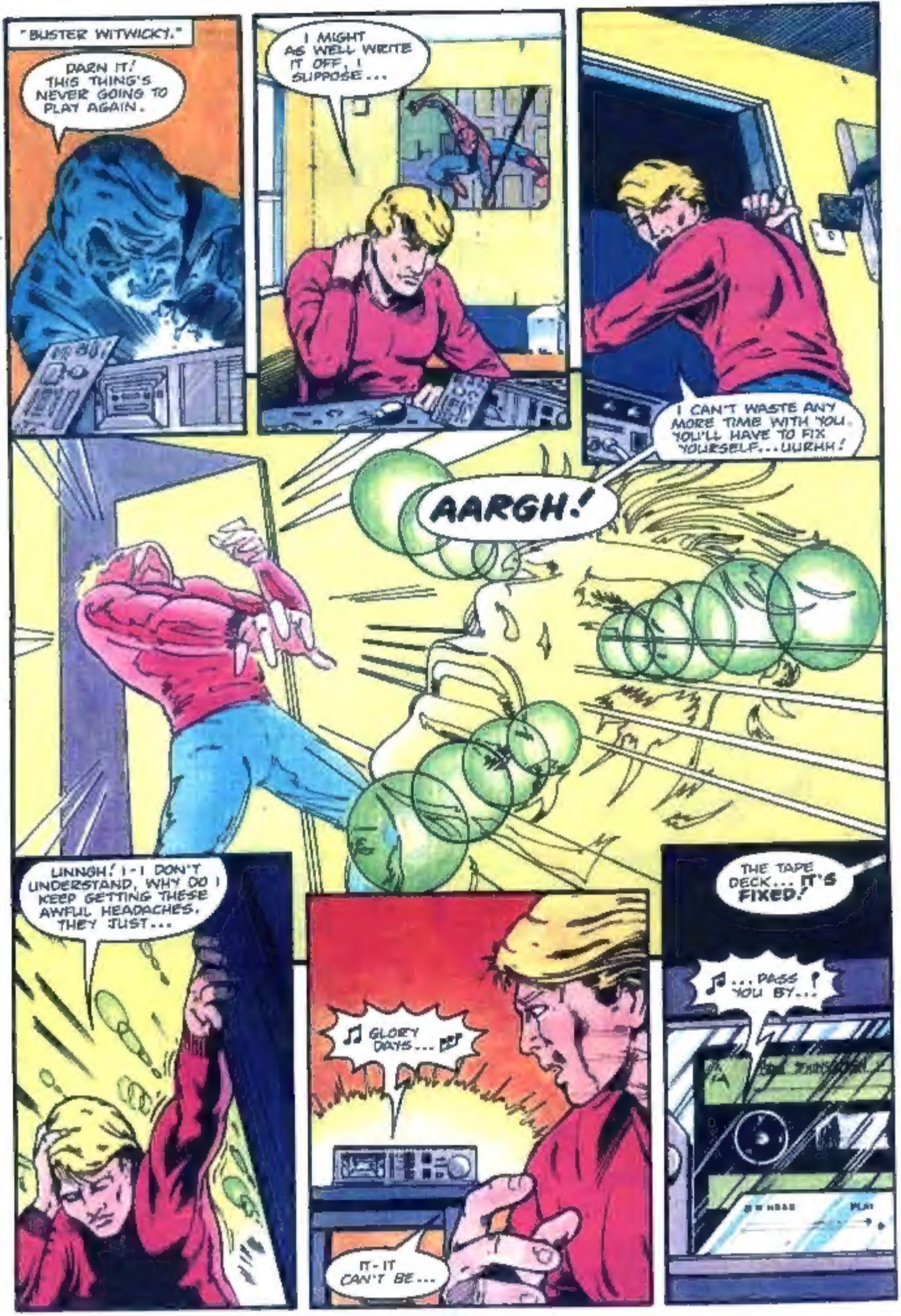
LOOK AT THEM, EVERY BIT AS BRAINLESS AS THE CREATURES THEY WERE MODELLED ON. "TAKE HIM!" INDEED!
THAT'S AN OMEGA CLASS BATTLE DROID THAT'S BEATING THE TAR OUT OF THEM.
YUURCH!
TWO FOOT THICK ARMOUR PLATING, A NEURAL HYDRAULIC MUSCULATURE, AND ENOUGH STORED ENERGY TO POWER A SPACE TRANSIT. IT'S VIRTUALLY UNBEATABLE...
MMMMUNPH!
TWO WEAKNESSES THOUGH. A STRONG MAGNETIC FIELD MESSES UP ITS CENTRAL DATA CORE, AND THERE'S A CEREBRAL ACCESS PORT THAT COULD ADMIT A FINE LASER BEAM.
CHAAK!
NOW IF I COULD JUST REMEMBER WHERE IT IS...
WHOOONCH!

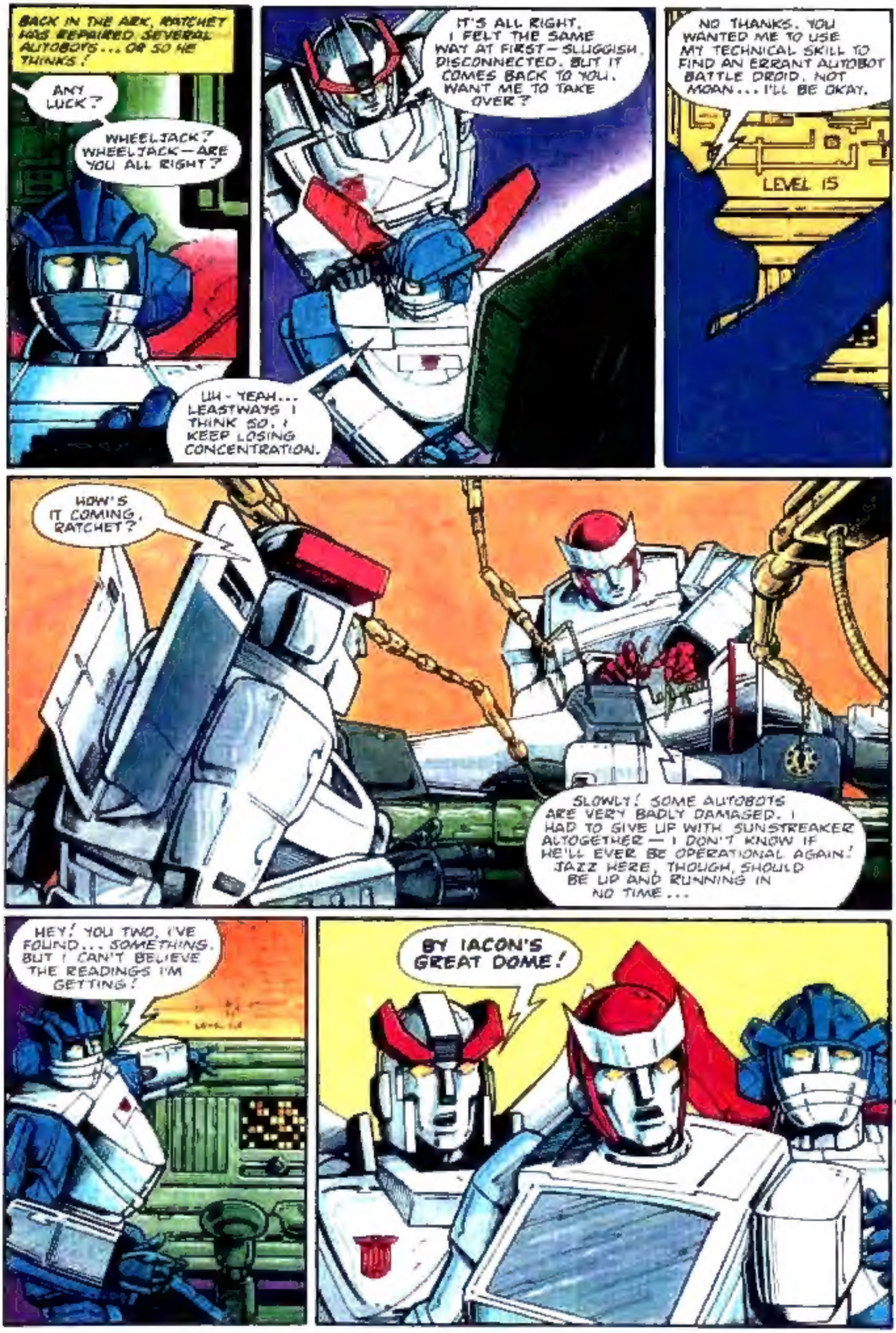
STRUGGLE IS FUTILE +++ EXECUTION SEQUENCE COMMENCE +++
WOW! THAT PUNCH NEARLY BROKE SLAG'S NECK... HEY! THAT'S IT...!
SORRY ABOUT THIS, GRIMLOCK!
BUT GUARDIAN'S CEREBRAL ACCESS PORT...
...IS BACK HERE.
SHREEE!
KREWWAAR +++
CRANIAL SYSTEMS OVERLOAD+++ UNIT SURVIVAL THREATENED +++
RETREAT+++ ACTIVATION OF REPAIR PROGRAM ESSENTIAL +++

WELL, IF THAT WAS THE MIGHTY DINOBOTS IN ACTION, DON'T PUT YOUR TRIGGER RELAYS ON PAUSE WAITING FOR PRAISE!
SPARE ME THE LECTURE, RATCHET. I NOTICE YOU TOOK YOUR SWEET TIME PITCHING IN JUST THEN.
NOW IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE OF SOME USE TO US, DO SOMETHING TO FIX SWOOP...
THAT BRUISER NEARLY BROKE HIM IN TWO.
YES, HE'S IN A SORRY STATE ALL RIGHT. BUT I HAVEN'T TIME TO REPAIR HIM NOW...
NOW LISTEN, DOC...
NO, YOU LISTEN, GRIMLOCK. SHOCKWAVE'S LEFT US AN ARK FULL OF AUTOBOTS ALL IN NEED OF EXTENSIVE REPAIR.
LOGIC DICTATES THAT SOME MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER OTHERS, AND SWOOP'S SOME WAY DOWN THAT LIST...
THE NEED FOR EXTRA RASH STUPIDITY IS MINIMAL, TO SAY THE LEAST!
HE'LL HAVE TO WAIT HIS TURN.
WHAT?!

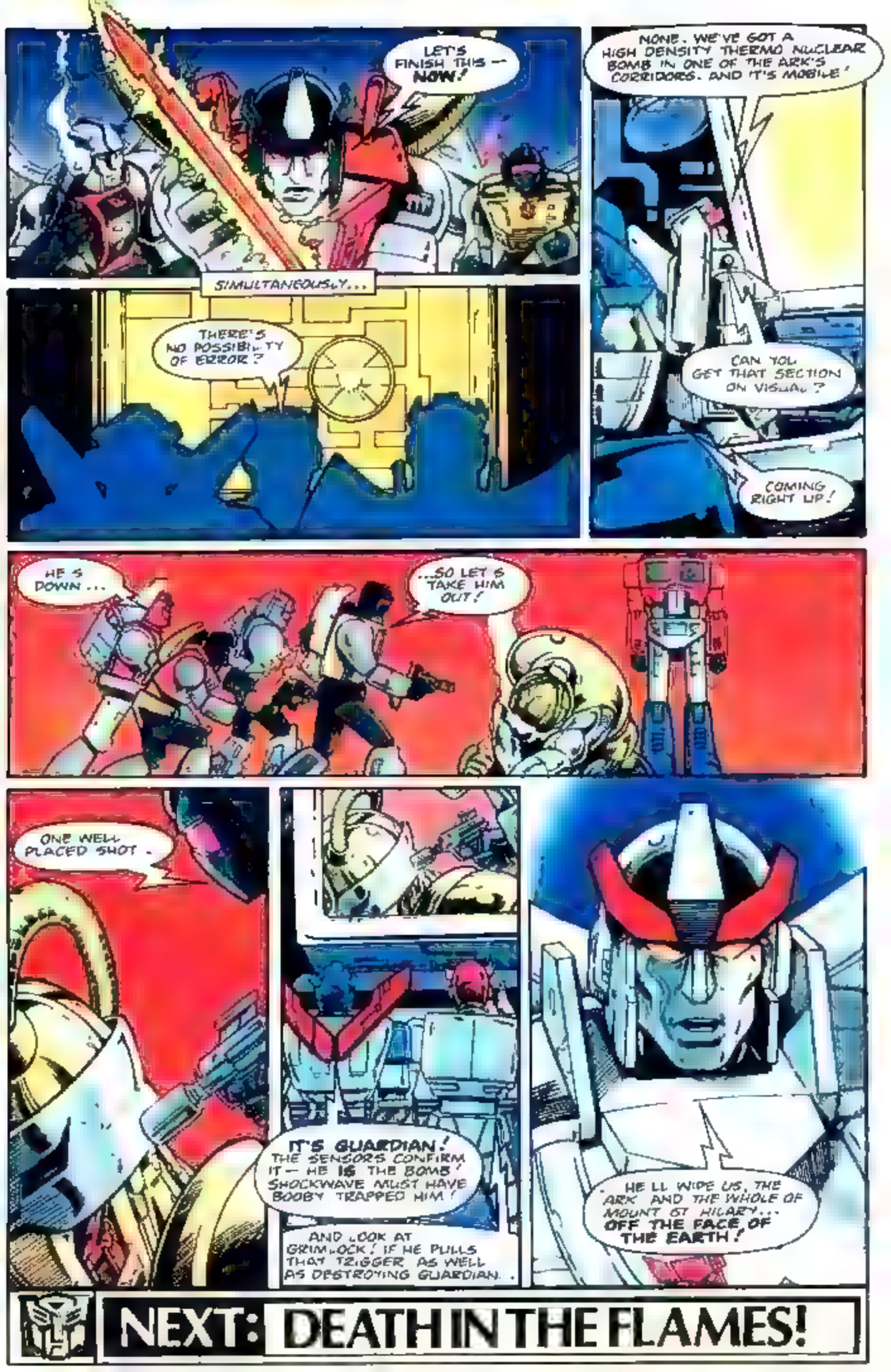

AND NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOURSELVES USEFUL, THERE'S STILL A ROGUE ROBOT LOOSE. TRY AND KEEP GUARDIAN FROM UNDER MY FEET WILL YOU?
I DON'T SEE THAT THERE'S ANYTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT...
OH-HA... NO, BOSS...
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ANYWAY? I WANT A PIECE OF THAT GUARDIAN'S HIDE! LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT IT MEANS TO MESS WITH THE DINOBOTS...
GOOD IDEA, BOSS.
ORIGINAL TOO... HA, HA.
AS RATCHET STRIDES PURPOSELY THROUGH THE ARK, HE IS CONFRONTED BY...
OPTIMUS ?!
OH, OF COURSE, IT'S JUST HIS BODY. THE DECEPTICONS HAVE HIS HEAD. THEY MEAN TO EXTRACT THE CREATION MATRIX LOCKED WITHIN PRIME'S MIND...
AT LEAST HE'S SAFE, AS LONG AS SHOCKWAVE FEELS HE'S OF SOME USE...
HE'LL HAVE TO KEEP HIM ALIVE!


AND AT THE NEW DECEPTICON BASE...
YOU ARE ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE AUTOBOTS, PRIME. THE REST OF YOUR ARMY LIES BROKEN WITHIN THE ARK, WHERE MY GUARDIAN IS KEEPING WATCH. YOU CONTINUE TO FUNCTION ONLY TO SERVE THE DECEPTICON CAUSE!
THEN, SHOCKWAVE, I SUGGEST THAT YOU TERMINATE MY FUNCTIONS INSTANTLY. I WILL RESIST ALL ATTEMPTS TO PERVERT THE SACRED CREATION MATRIX.
NO! RESIST ALL YOU WANT, PRIME. BUT I WILL HAVE MY FORCE OF NEW DECEPTICONS.
ALREADY SIX NEW DECEPTICON BRAIN MODULES HAVE BEEN FORMED.
YOU GAVE THEM LIFE. I SHALL GIVE THEM BODIES. AND THEY ARE ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY THAT WILL SERVE ME!
THANKFULLY THOSE SIX USED UP ALL BUT THE LAST VESTIGES OF THE MATRIX. THE MAIN CREATION POWER LIES SAFELY WITHIN THE MIND OF SOMEONE ELSE...


"BUSTER WITWICKY."
DARN IT! THIS THING'S NEVER GOING TO PLAY AGAIN.
I MIGHT AS WELL WRITE IT OFF, I SUPPOSE...
I CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME WITH YOU. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIX YOURSELF...UURHH!
AARGH!
UNNGH! I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND, WHY DO I KEEP GETTING THESE AWFUL HEADACHES. THEY JUST...
♫ GLORY DAYS... DEF
IT-IT CAN'T BE...
THE TAPE DECK... IT'S FIXED!
♫ ...PASS YOU BY...

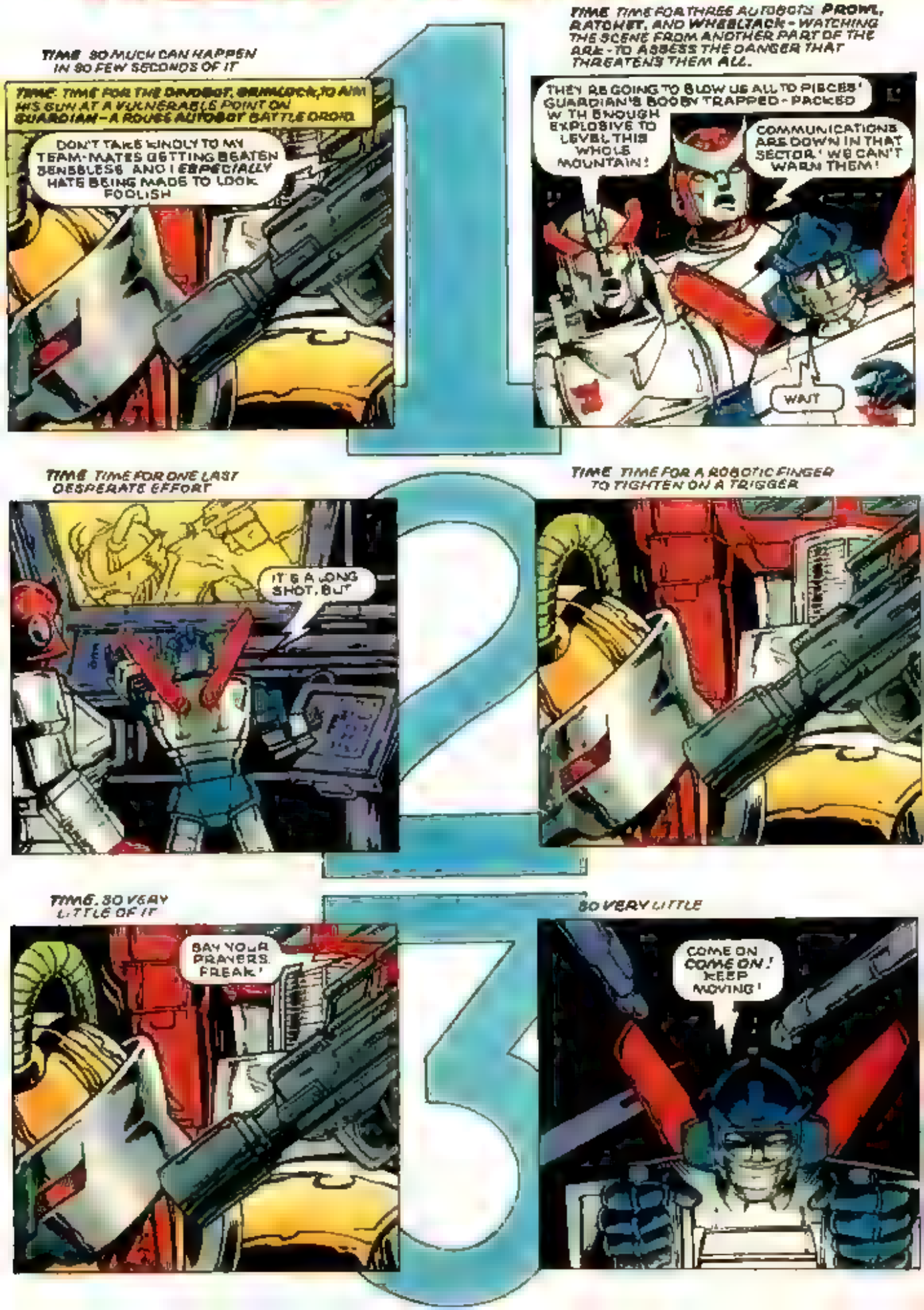

BACK IN THE ARK, RATCHET HAS REPAIRED SEVERAL AUTOBOTS... OR SO HE THINKS!
ANY LUCK?
WHEELJACK? WHEELJACK—ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UH - YEAH... LEASTWAYS I THINK SO. I KEEP LOSING CONCENTRATION.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I FELT THE SAME WAY AT FIRST—SLUGGISH, DISCONNECTED. BUT IT COMES BACK TO YOU. WANT ME TO TAKE OVER?
NO THANKS. YOU WANTED ME TO USE MY TECHNICAL SKILL TO FIND AN ERRANT AUTOBOT BATTLE DROID. NOT MOAN... I'LL BE OKAY.
LEVEL 15
HOW'S IT COMING, RATCHET?
SLOWLY! SOME AUTOBOTS ARE VERY BADLY DAMAGED. I HAD TO GIVE UP WITH SUNSTREAKER ALTOGETHER — I DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL EVER BE OPERATIONAL AGAIN! JAZZ HERE, THOUGH, SHOULD BE UP AND RUNNING IN NO TIME...
HEY! YOU TWO, I'VE FOUND... SOMETHING. BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THE READINGS I'M GETTING!
BY IACON'S GREAT DOME!

AND AT PRECISELY THAT MOMENT IN THE ARK'S LABYRINTHIC MAZE OF CORRIDORS...
HE STILL WITH US?
YEAH HE SURE WASN'T BUILT FOR STEALTH. READY ON MY SIGNAL.
NOW!
EAT ENERGO SWORD FREAK!
NEEARRGH!
NOW BACK OFF SLAG SLUDGE HIT HIM!
SCHRAAAK!
SYSTEM DAMAGE +++ SECTIONS FIVE TEN AND TWELVE INOPERATIVE +++


LET'S FINISH THIS — NOW!
SIMULTANEOUSLY...
THERE'S NO POSSIBILITY OF ERROR?
NONE. WE'VE GOT A HIGH DENSITY THERMO NUCLEAR BOMB IN ONE OF THE ARK'S CORRIDORS. AND IT'S MOBILE!
CAN YOU GET THAT SECTION ON VISUAL?
COMING RIGHT UP!
HE'S DOWN...
...SO LET'S TAKE HIM OUT!
ONE WELL PLACED SHOT.
IT'S GUARDIAN! THE SENSORS CONFIRM IT — HE IS THE BOMB! SHOCKWAVE MUST HAVE BOOBY TRAPPED HIM!
AND LOOK AT GRIMLOCK! IF HE PULLS THAT TRIGGER AS WELL AS DESTROYING GUARDIAN...
HE'LL WIPE US, THE ARK AND THE WHOLE OF MOUNT ST HILARY... OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
NEXT: DEATH IN THE FLAMES!

THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC AUTOBOT

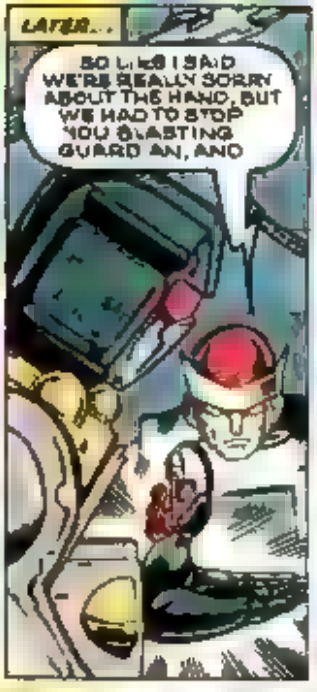
THE TRANSFORMERS®


TIME SO MUCH CAN HAPPEN IN SO FEW SECONDS OF IT
TIME: TIME FOR THE DINOBOT, GRIMLOCK, TO AIM HIS GUN AT A VULNERABLE POINT ON GUARDIAN – A ROGUE AUTOBOT BATTLE DRONE
DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO MY TEAM-MATES GETTING BEATEN SENSELESS AND I ESPECIALLY HATE BEING MADE TO LOOK FOOLISH
TIME TIME FOR THREE AUTOBOTS PROWL, RATCHET, AND WHEELJACK – WATCHING THE SCENE FROM ANOTHER PART OF THE ARK – TO ASSESS THE DANGER THAT THREATENS THEM ALL.
THEY'RE GOING TO BLOW US ALL TO PIECES! GUARDIAN'S BOOBY TRAPPED – PACKED WITH ENOUGH EXPLOSIVE TO LEVEL THIS WHOLE MOUNTAIN!
COMMUNICATIONS ARE DOWN IN THAT SECTOR! WE CAN'T WARN THEM!
WAIT
TIME TIME FOR ONE LAST DESPERATE EFFORT
IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT
TIME TIME FOR A ROBOTIC FINGER TO TIGHTEN ON A TRIGGER
TIME. SO VERY LITTLE OF IT
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, FREAK!
SO VERY LITTLE
COME ON COME ON! KEEP MOVING!

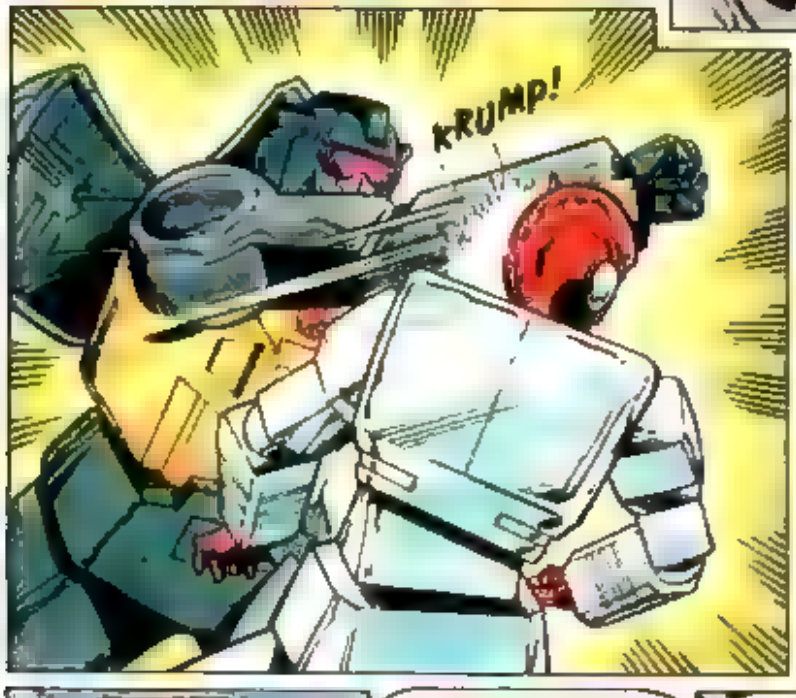
BUT PERHAPS TIME ENOUGH
FOR MIRACLES!
WHAAAA-? PRIME!
THE WRATH OF GRIMLOCK!
SCRIPT : FURMAN
ART : NELSON/FARMER
COLOURS : WHITAKER
LETTERS : SCOTT
EDITS : RINNER

HOW CAN YOU MOVE WITHOUT A HEAD ? THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING ... YOU'RE DEAD!
INTERNAL MOTOR OVERRIDE, EH ?
YEAH. WITHOUT A BRAIN MODULE, A TRANSFORMER BODY IS JUST MERE CIRCUITRY, MANOEUVRABLE BY A COMPUTER SIGNAL.
C'MON. LET'S GO SORT THE DINOBOTS OUT BEFORE THEY DAMAGE PRIME ... OR THEMSELVES FOR THAT MATTER!
MEANWHILE ...
HEY, GRIMLOCK, I NEVER REALISED YOU AND PRIME WERE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS
HE JUST LIKES SOMEONE WHO CAN'T TALK BACK
WILL YOU LOT SHUT UP AND HELP ME GET MY ARM FREE
DISTRACTION FACTOR AT MAXIMUM +++ ENGAGE RESERVE POWER CELLS +++
"ESCAPE SEQUENCE ACTIVATED +++"
UNNFH!

HUNGH... HE-HE'S GETTIN' AWAY AGAIN, GRIMLOCK.
GRIMLOCK?


LATER...
SO LIKE I SAID WE'RE REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE HAND, BUT WE HAD TO STOP YOU BLASTING GUARD AN, AND

YES... WELL, THAT SHOULD, ER DO IT
WHY DON'T YOU TEST IT?


KRUMP!

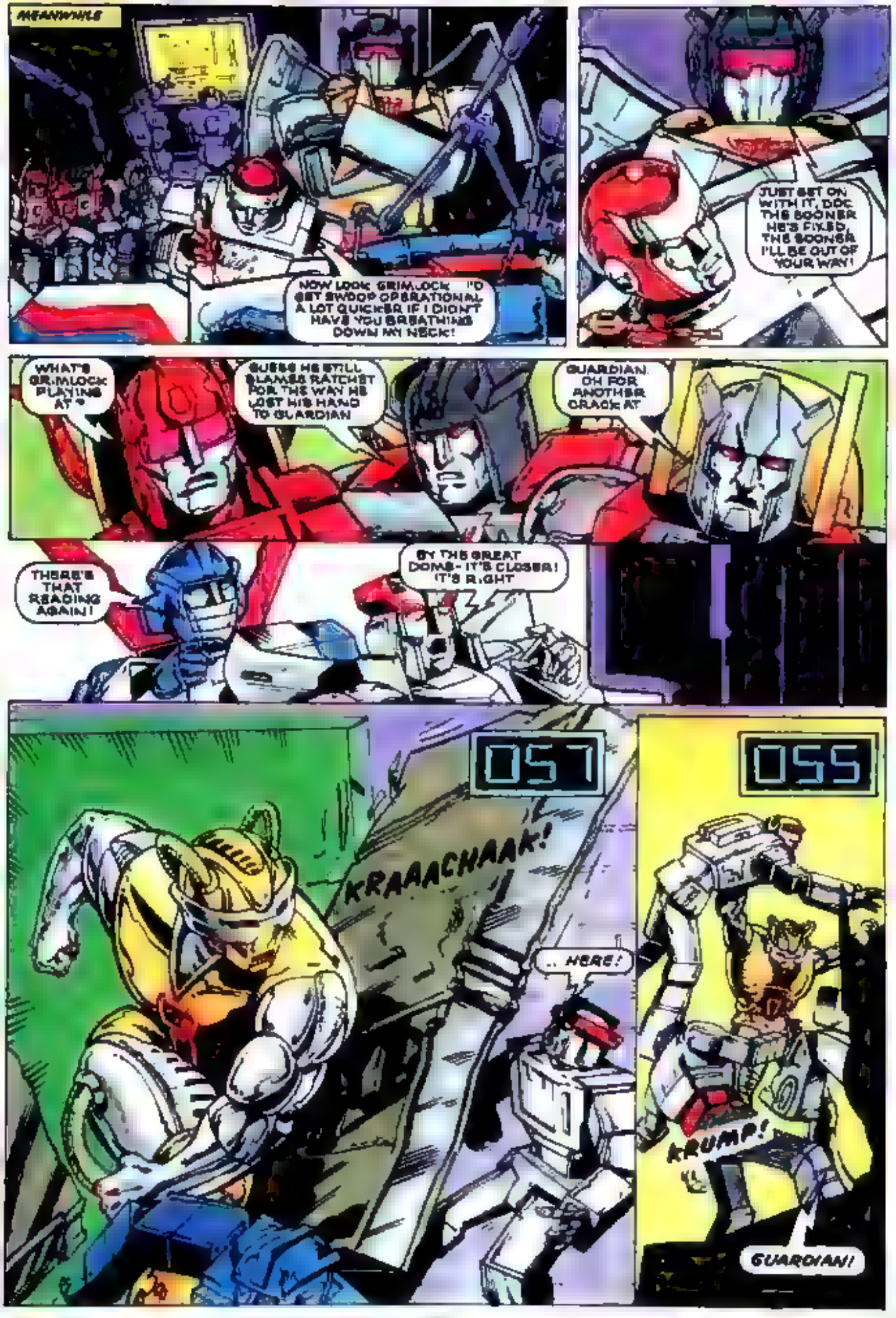
IT'S JUST FINE THANK YOU!

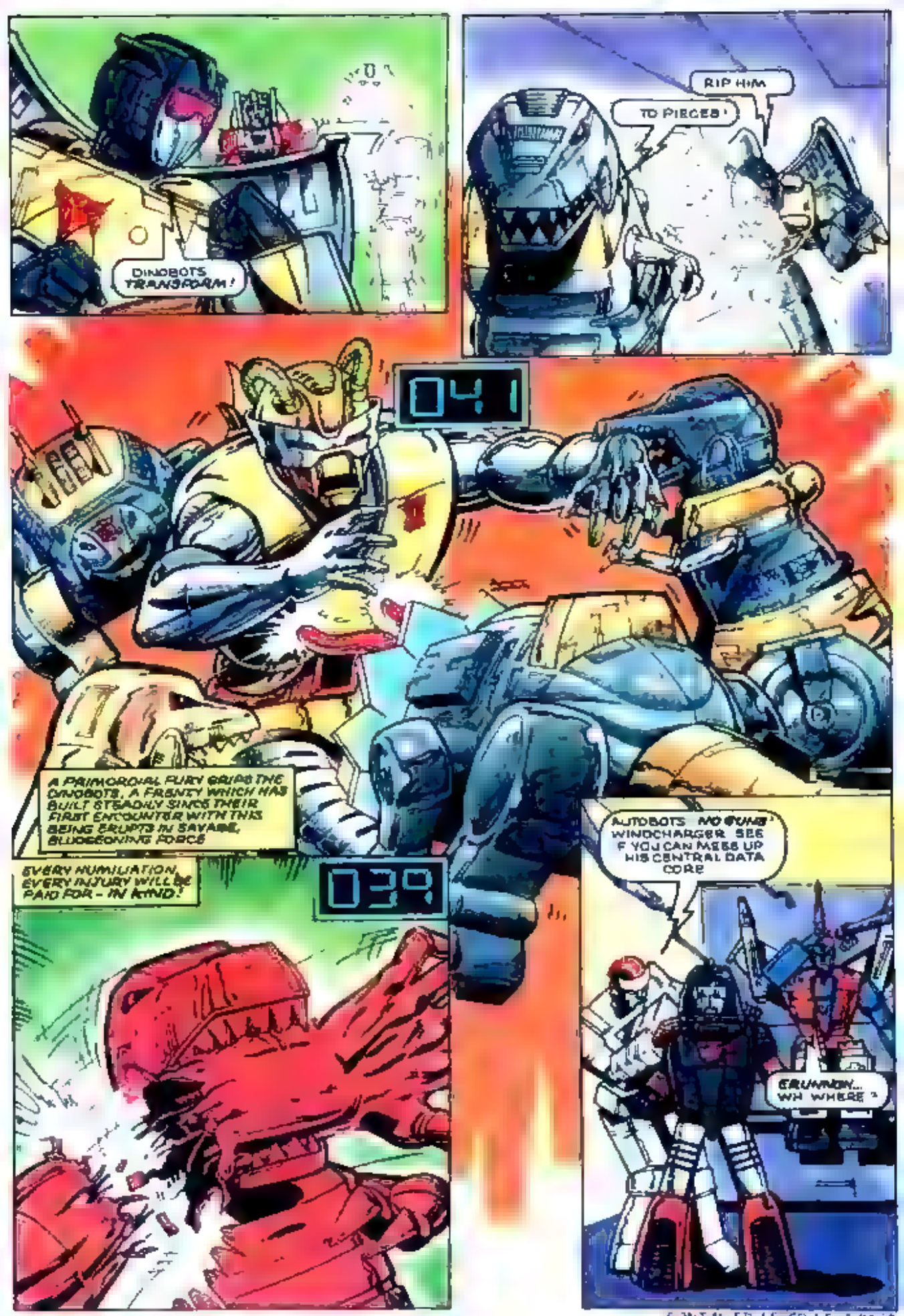
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
THE TERMINAL BULKS, I THINK. HE'LL GET OVER IT ANYWAY. FOUND OUR ROVING ROBOT YET?

NO, HE'S GONE TO GROUND SOMEWHERE OUR SENSORS CAN'T REACH. WE HAVEN'T THE MANPOWER TO CONDUCT A FULL SEARCH, AND EVEN IF WE FIND HIM... WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?

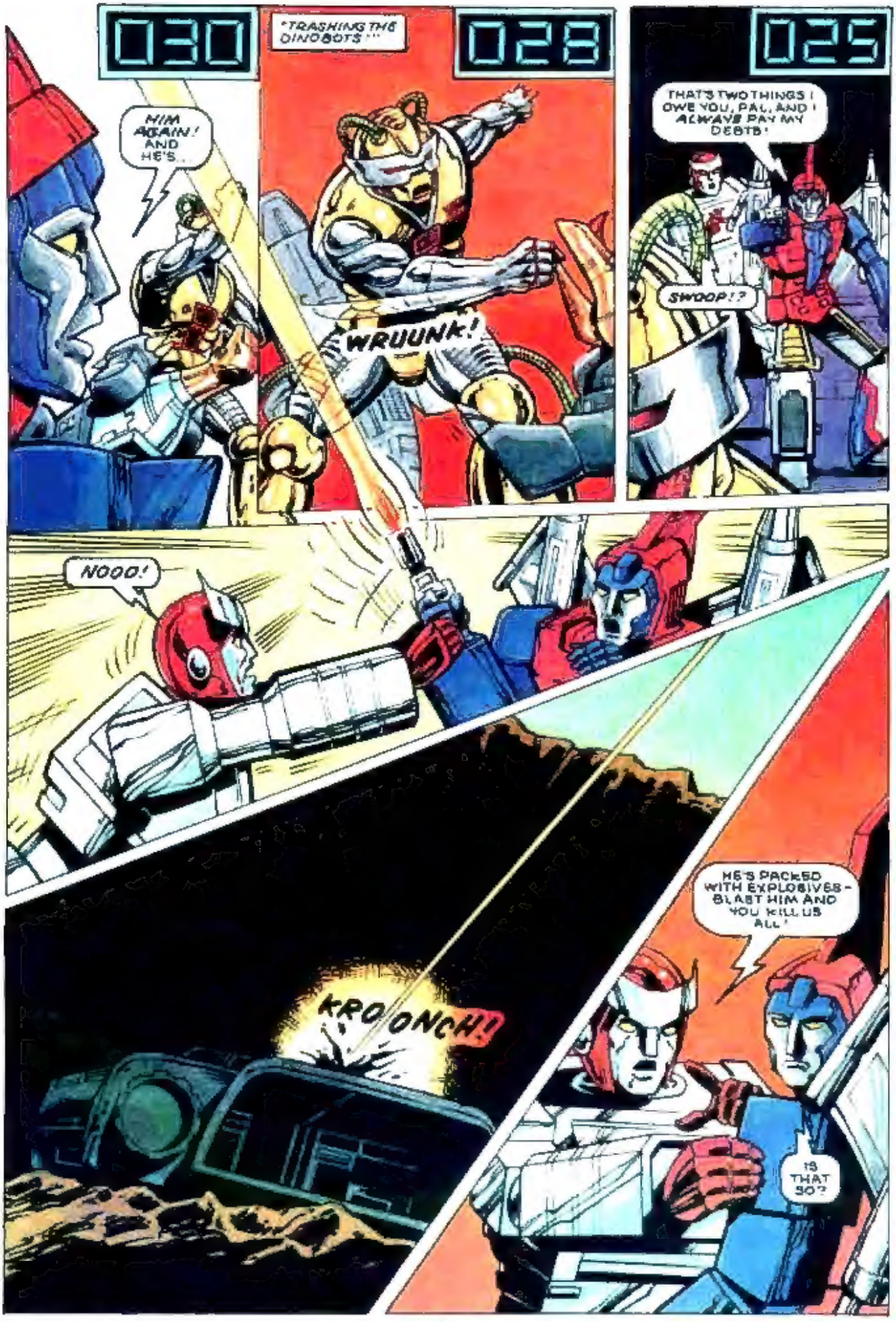
WELL, LET'S TAKE THINGS ONE STEP AT A TIME. I'LL GET BACK TO PROVIDING YOU WITH THE MANPOWER!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU MIGHT REVIVE WINDCHARGER AHEAD OF SOME OF THE OTHERS. IT WAS HIS MAGNETIC POWER THAT STOPPED GUARD AN DURING THAT 'AUNTIE' BUSINESS

"BUT I WONDER IF IT WILL BE ENOUGH THIS TIME"
SITUATION REVIEW +++ POWER LEVELS APPROACHING NORMAL +++ SECTION FIVE AND TWELVE INOPERATIVE +++ SECTION TEN MINIMAL OPERATIONAL CAPACITY +++
OVERALL COMBAT EFFICIENCY - EIGHTY FIVE PERCENT +++ ADEQUATE +++
SITUATION REVIEW +++ SURVEY OF OPPOSITION +++ THERE ARE NOW A TOTAL OF FOURTEEN AUTOBOT UNITS IN OPERATIONAL MODE +++ AWARENESS AND REACTION TIME VARY IN DIRECT RELATION TO AMOUNT OF TIME SINCE REACTIVATION +++
LIKELIHOOD OF THIS UNIT BEING ABLE TO OVERCOME SAID FOURTEEN AUTOBOTS - MINIMAL +++
CONCLUSION +++ ACTIVATE FAILSAFE PROGRAM +++
AND DEEP WITHIN ITS ORGANIC CORTEX, A MEMORY LUMBERS FORTH, A MEMORY OF THE ONE-EYED COMMANDER . . .
SOUNDWAVE, IS THE CHARGE PRIMED ?
YES, COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE. IF FOR SOME REASON GUARDIAN FACES DEFEAT EITHER THE AUTOBOTS OR MEGATRON - SHOULD HE TURN AGAINST YOU ONCE MORE - A FAIL-SAFE PROGRAM WILL ACTIVATE THE COUNTDOWN TO DETONATION
AND ONCE THAT COUNT-DOWN HAS BEGUN
IT CANNOT BE HALTED, DELAYED OR TAMPERED WITH. GUARDIAN WILL SEEK OUT THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF THE ENEMY IN WHICH TO EXPLODE
HE CANNOT BE STOPPED
PERFECT. SHOULD ANY RETURN TO THE ARK TO CHALLENGE ME - I CALCULATE A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT CERTAINTY THAT THEY WILL UTTERLY PERISH
ACTIVATION COMPLETE +++ DETONATION ONE HUNDRED EARTH SECONDS AND COUNTING +++
0.99

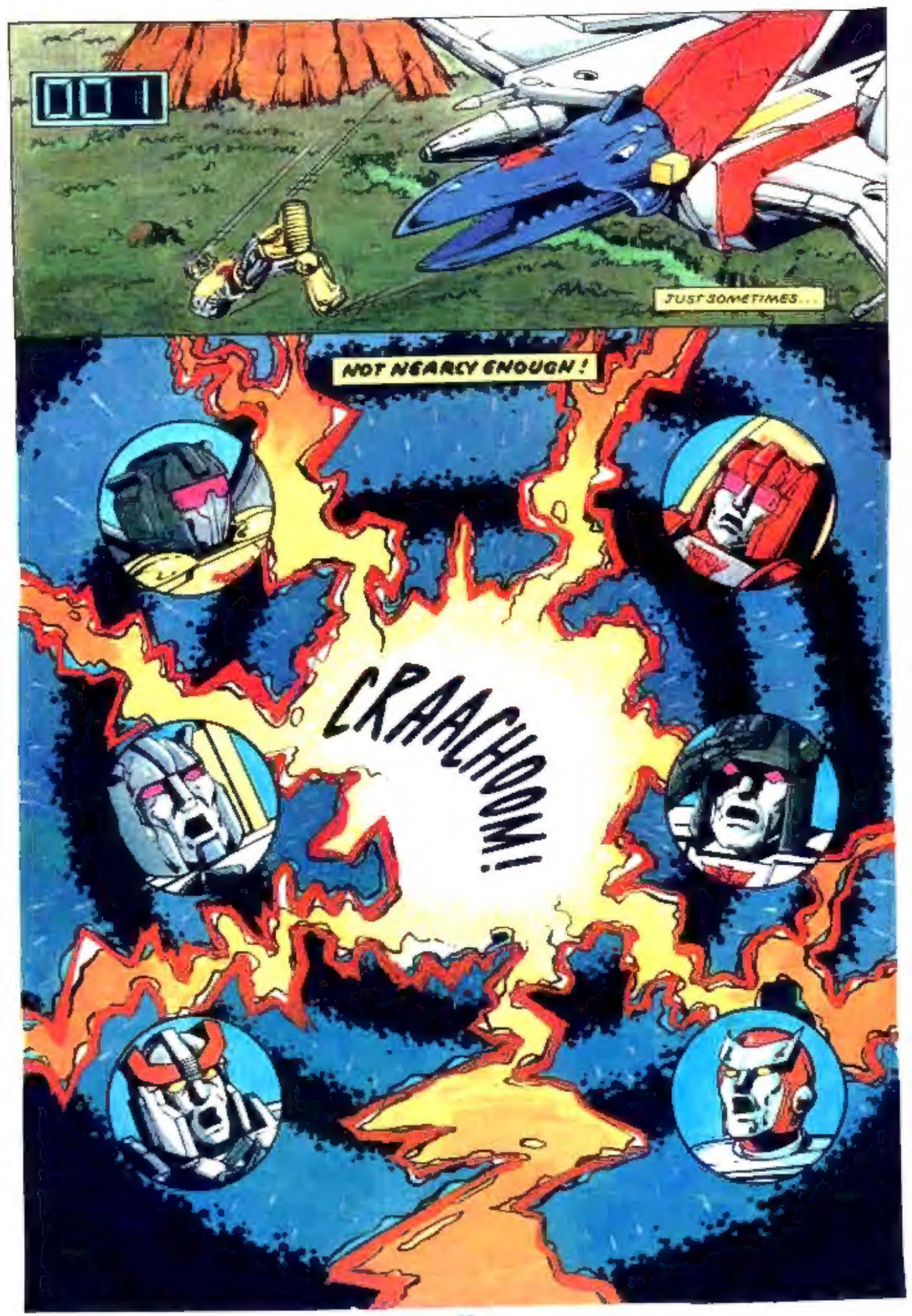

MEANWHILE
NOW LOOK GRIMLOCK I'D GET SWOOP OPERATIONAL A LOT QUICKER IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOU BREATHING DOWN MY NECK!
JUST SET ON WITH IT, DOC. THE SOONER HE'S FIXED, THE SOONER I'LL BE OUT OF YOUR WAY!
WHAT'S GRIMLOCK PLAYING AT?
GUESS HE STILL BLAMES RATCHET FOR THE WAY HE LOST HIS HAND TO GUARDIAN
GUARDIAN. OH FOR ANOTHER CRACK AT
THERE'S THAT READING AGAIN!
BY THE GREAT DOMS- IT'S CLOSER! IT'S RIGHT
057
KRAAACHAAK!
.. HERE!
055
KRUMP!
GUARDIAN!

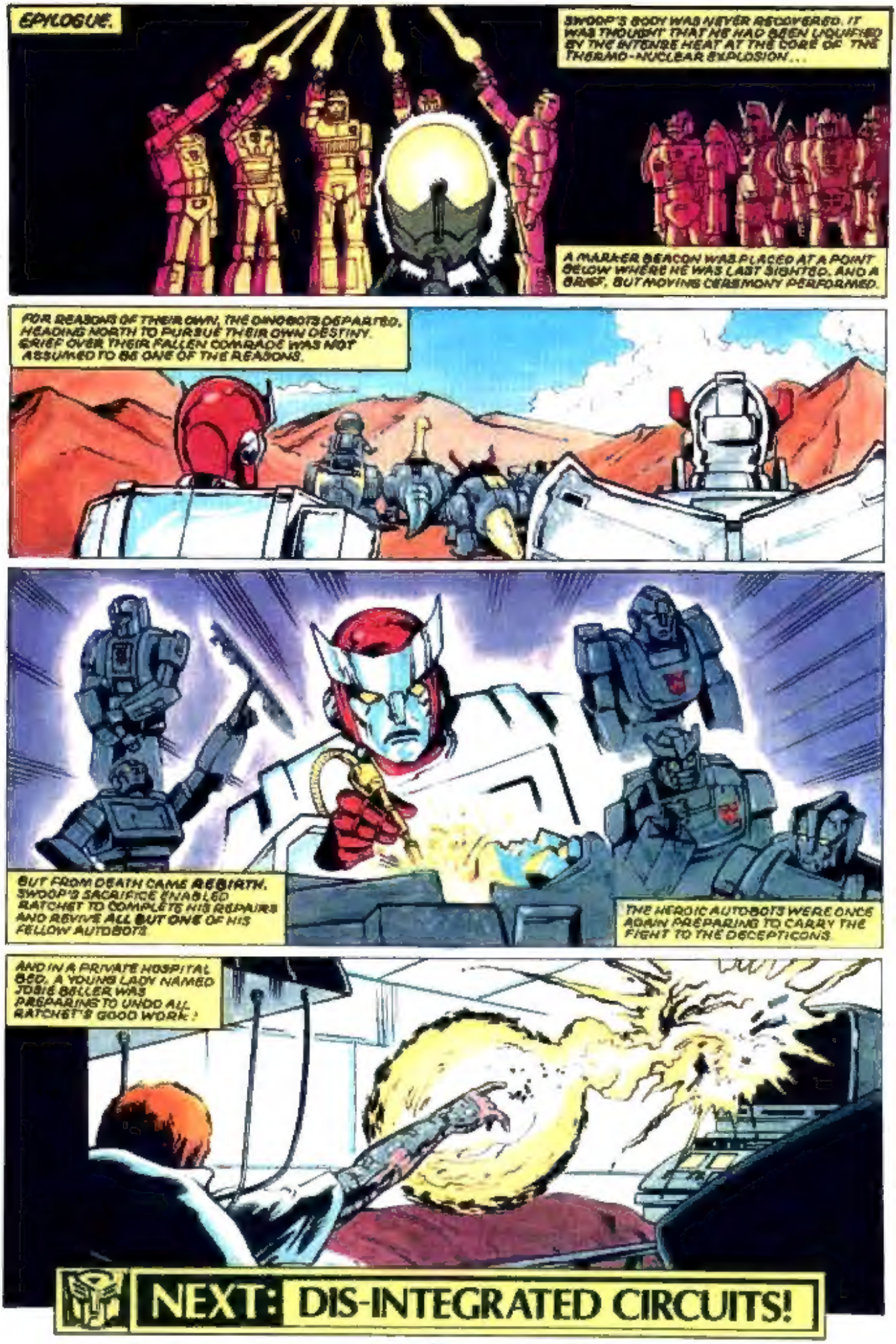

DINOBOTS TRANSFORM!
RIP HIM TO PIECES!
041
A PRIMORDIAL FURY GRIPS THE DINOBOTS, A FRENZY WHICH HAS BUILT STEADILY SINCE THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THIS BEING ERUPTS IN SAVAGE, BLUDGEONING FORCE
EVERY HUMILIATION, EVERY INJURY WILL BE PAID FOR - IN KIND!
039
AUTOBOTS NO @%#&! WINDCHARGER SEE IF YOU CAN MESS UP HIS CENTRAL DATA CORE
GRUNNION... WH WHERE ?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


030
HIM AGAIN! AND HE'S...
028
"TRASHING THE DINOBOTS"
WRUUNK!
025
THAT'S TWO THINGS I OWE YOU, PAL, AND I ALWAYS PAY MY DEBTS!
SWOOP!?
NOOO!
KRO ONCH!
HE'S PACKED WITH EXPLOSIVES - BLAST HIM AND YOU KILL US ALL!
IS THAT SO?

WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE HIM RUNNING AROUND IN HERE...
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM...
...OUTSIDE!
012
003
IT'S BEEN FUN FLYING WITH YOU, BUT I THINK WE'RE FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THE ARK NOW...
HAPPY LANDINGS!
002
TIME, SO MUCH CAN HAPPEN IN SO FEW SECONDS OF IT.
BUT SOMETIMES...


JUST SOMETIMES...
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH!
CRAACHOOM!


EPILOGUE.
SWOOP'S BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT HE HAD BEEN LIQUIFIED BY THE INTENSE HEAT AT THE CORE OF THE THERMO-NUCLEAR EXPLOSION...
A MARKER BEACON WAS PLACED AT A POINT BELOW WHERE HE WAS LAST SIGHTED. AND A BRIEF, BUT MOVING CEREMONY PERFORMED.
FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN, THE DINOBOTS DEPARTED, HEADING NORTH TO PURSUE THEIR OWN DESTINY. GRIEF OVER THEIR FALLEN COMRADE WAS NOT ASSUMED TO BE ONE OF THE REASONS.
BUT FROM DEATH CAME REBIRTH. SWOOP'S SACRIFICE ENABLED RATCHET TO COMPLETE HIS REPAIRS AND REVIVE ALL BUT ONE OF HIS FELLOW AUTOBOTS
THE HEROIC AUTOBOTS WERE ONCE AGAIN PREPARING TO CARRY THE FIGHT TO THE DECEPTICONS
AND IN A PRIVATE HOSPITAL BED, A YOUNG LADY NAMED JODIE BELLER WAS PREPARING TO UNDO ALL RATCHET'S GOOD WORK!
NEXT: DIS-INTEGRATED CIRCUITS!